



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - March 26, 2002

- ***In the West***, dry, warmer weather is promoting the development of irrigated crops across ***California and the Southwest***, although pastures and dryland small grains are suffering from a lack of moisture. In addition, meager high-elevation snow packs continue to threaten spring runoff potential in the ***central and southern Rockies and the Southwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, winter wheat remains in need of additional moisture from ***Montana to western Texas***, although ***southwestern Kansas and the Oklahoma panhandle*** are especially dry. Mild weather is returning to the region, melting snow across northern areas and increasing evaporation rates elsewhere.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, freezing rain and snow showers linger across ***eastern areas***, while dry weather is returning to the remainder of the region. The recent storm blanketed parts of the ***Midwest***, including ***northern Indiana***, with more than a half-foot of snow.
- ***In the South***, a line of locally heavy showers and thunderstorms extends from ***eastern Kentucky to southeastern Louisiana***. The rain is inducing some renewed lowland flooding in ***southern portions of the Ohio Valley***, but benefiting pastures and winter grains in the ***Southeast***.

Outlook: Beneficial precipitation will spread across the remainder of the ***East*** later today before ending by mid-week. Rain and snow may linger into Thursday morning across ***New England***. For the remainder of the week, precipitation will be confined to the ***nation's northern tier***, although significant rain may develop across the ***south-central U.S.*** during the upcoming weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 31 - April 4 calls for very warm, mostly dry weather in the ***West***, but near- to below-normal temperatures from the ***Plains to the East Coast***. Above-normal precipitation will be confined to portions of the ***South and East***, including drought-affected areas in the ***southern Atlantic States and New England***.

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